

# VNG dedicates new headquarters to D-Day veteran

The Virginia National Guard’s newly-built Joint Force Headquarters was officially named and dedicated for Roanoke native and D-Day veteran Sgt. John Robert “Bob” Slaughter Jan. 8, 2019, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia. Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, joined members of Slaughter’s family and distinguished guests to dedicate the Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters.

“We’re thrilled to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the greatest generation and to all other service men and women who have served the cause of freedom,” said Williams.

Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins also attended the ceremony and reflected on the occasion.

“It’s an incredible honor to be here on the day we honor a native Virginian and a true war hero in Sgt. Slaughter,” said Hopkins. “What an incredible occasion to dedicate this wonderful facility.”

Slaughter, who passed away in 2012 at the age of 87, fought in World War II as a squad leader with the VNG’s 1st Battalion, 116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, during the D-Day invasion June 6, 1944.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/01/08/12448/>



Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Bob Slaughter, Jr., unveil a framed display honoring D-Day veteran Sgt. Bob Slaughter Jan. 8, 2019, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

**Virginia National Guard News Headlines**

**Unit, family, friends gather to remember fallen VNG Soldiers 14 years later**  
Two Virginia National Guard Soldiers killed Dec. 21, 2004, in a suicide bombing in Mosul, Iraq, were remembered by fellow Soldiers, family and friends with a wreath laying Dec. 21, 2018, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.  
*Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/22/12421/>*

**Funeral Honors Program ensuring eligible veterans get proper final respects**  
Army National Guard Soldiers from several states completed Level 1 Military Funeral Honors training Dec. 10 – 14, 2018, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.  
*Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/19/12374/>*

**200th Weather Flight cuts ribbon on new home facility**  
The Virginia Air National Guard’s Sandston-based 200th Weather Flight, 192nd Wing, and its team of forecasters officially have a new home after a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 4, 2019 in Sandston, Virginia.  
*Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/01/08/12453/>*

**VNG Soldier competes in World Military Taekwondo Championship**  
A VNG Soldier assigned to the Manassas-based Delta Company, 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team competed in the World Military Taekwondo Championships Nov. 27 – Dec. 3, 2018, in Rio de Janeiro.  
*Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/01/04/12410/>*

**Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force**

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

**Va. Army National Guard**  
<http://nationalguard.com/va>

**Va. Air National Guard**  
<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

**Va. Defense Force**  
<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

# Governor, First Lady host reception for VNG families

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and First Lady of Virginia Pam Northam hosted a reception for Virginia National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their families Dec. 16, 2018, at Virginia's Executive Mansion in Richmond, Virginia. The reception recognized the Soldiers and Airmen who returned from federal active duty deployments this year and their families as well as families of those personnel who are currently mobilized.

Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Carlos Hopkins, Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, Virginia National Guard senior leaders and members of the Virginia National Guard Family Programs Office joined the Northams in thanking the Soldiers, Airmen and their families for their service, sacrifice and support for missions around the world.

"We are just so proud of you," Governor Northam said. "We wanted to say thanks and pay tribute to our men and women in uniform, our veterans and their families. We know that you couldn't do your mission without their support."

First Lady Northam shared her experience when Governor Northam was deployed as an Army doctor during the first Gulf War, and she was in Germany with a young child and another on the way.

"I learned I had another family as well, and that was my amazing military family," she said. "They were there with me all along the way. I will always appreciate their gift of love and friendship."

Nearly 1,500 Soldiers and Airmen served on federal active duty in the last 24 months, and VNG units conducted a wide variety of missions including fighter jet air dominance, mission command, military-to-military partnership building, sustainment, security and rotary wing flight operations and maintenance. They join the nearly 15,000 Soldiers and Airmen who have mobilized for homeland security missions, combat operations and peacekeeping and stabilization missions since September 11, 2001.

Both Virginia Army and Air National Guard units and individuals served on federal active duty in 2018.

A group of approximately 70 Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group officially began a federal active duty mobilization to the Middle East with a departure ceremony Nov. 25, 2018. They are scheduled for about 10 months mobilization in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, where they will conduct planning and logistics for U.S. and coalition forces in the Central Command area.

Virginia Army and Air National Guard cyber warriors are on federal duty in the United States supporting Department of Defense cyber security efforts.

Approximately 25 Soldiers assigned to the Chesterfield-based Detachment 2, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment returned to the United States Nov. 3, 2018, after serving on federal active duty in Kosovo since January. The Soldiers provided aerial medical evacuation support and training to U.S. and allied forces supporting Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo.



**Families of Virginia National Guard Soldiers pose for a photo with Governor Ralph Northam at the Virginia Executive Mansion Dec. 16, 2018, in Richmond, Virginia.**

U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing and the 192nd Wing returned to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, from a deployment to the Middle East on Oct. 9, 2018. Active duty and Virginia Air National Guard Airmen were deployed six months as part of the 94th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. Their efforts enabled USAF F-22 Raptors to deliver air superiority during combat operations, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and the fight against enemy forces in Iraq and Syria.

In addition to unit mobilizations, individual VNG Soldiers and Airmen mobilized for federal missions inside the United States and locations all over the world.

Read more: <http://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2018/12/17/12381/>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### 149th Fighter Squadron donates toys to children's hospital

<https://go.usa.gov/xET6E>

### Photos: Red Dragons conduct air assault training

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157704020181261>

### 529th CSSB on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/529thCSSB/>

### 192nd Wing on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/192Wing/>

### VNG Family Programs on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/VaGuardFamilyPrograms/>



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